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offences against the sixth commandment, against the law of nature, against the laws of God given by Moses, against the Christian religion. In all wars, one side is in fault, sometimes both ; and in this case war is no better than robbery and murder, the guilt of which lies, I do not say, upon the soldiers, but upon those in whose hands is lodged the power of declaring war.

Jeremy Taylor.—The Christian religion hath made no particular provision for the conduct of war under a proper title ; and if men be subjects of Christ's law, they can never go to war with each other. As contrary as cruelty is to mercy, tyranny to charity, so is war and bloodshed to the meekness and gentleness of the Christian religion ; and such is the excellency of Christ's doctrine, that, if men would obey it, Christians would never war one against another.

Richard Cecil.—There is something worse than the plunder of the ruffian, than the outrage of the ravisher, than the stab of the murderer. There is a shocking moral appendage naturally growing out of national conflicts. Instead of listening to the counsels of divine mercy, and concurring in the design of a kingdom of heaven set up on earth in "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost," the spirit of warlike discord tends to entomb every such idea. It tends rather to set up something like a *kingdom of hell*, a reign of violence where destruction is the grand enterprise ; where the means of death and desolation are cultivated as a science ; where invention is racked to produce ruin, and the performance of it is ennobled by public applause. Moloch seems once more enthroned ; while ambition, revenge and oppression erect their banners amidst groans and tears, amidst cities desolated, or smoking in their ashes.

DEMORALIZATION FROM WAR.—There is always a fearful amount of general demoralization attendant on war in any form. There was in our revolutionary conflict of eight years with England, as there has been in the late struggle with our slaveholding rebels. Our success in the former case, and the general excellence of its leaders, screened the accompanying and consequent demoralization from the reproach or lamentation which it would otherwise have called forth ; but the main facts were well known and fully admitted at the time, and some of them were years ago quoted on our pages. Ever since the rise of our late rebellion our land has been full of similar facts illustrating the wide and fearful demoralization which it occasioned. Only a mere fraction of them have as yet been given to the public ; but should they ever be, they will form a startling commentary alike on human depravity, and the manifold, ubiquitous demoralization inseparable from war in its most excusable and best regulated forms. We have purposely abstained thus far from attempting to embody any general aggregate of them ; but we have been quietly accumulating them in detail, and may in due time lay them before the public. The great moral, political and financial lessons, so terribly taught by our late rebellion, are yet to be held aloft as warnings to our country and the world through all coming ages.

Here is one of the smallest forms of the general demoralization, a species of *pecadillo* at which nine in ten of the government employees are wont to laugh until brought

to a strict account by some committee or individual simple enough in his honesty to demand it. "Some days ago (late in Feb., 1869) the House Committee on Pensions submitted a resolution to increase the compensation of the Clerk of that Committee. A discussion ensued relative to the amount of money expended for clerks of committees ; and out of this discussion grew a resolution directing the Committee on Accounts to investigate the whole subject. The Committee attended to the duty thus imposed, and all the clerks of committees were in turn called and examined relative to their respective duties. The testimony, it is said, will show that *three-fourths* of the committee clerkships are *mere sinecures*. In some instances clerks receive their per diem, or annual compensation, when they have not done ten days' work throughout the year."

MILITARY SINECURES IN ENGLAND.—Her government is full of them, both civil and military ; but the sinecures in her army and navy are the worst of all and the most numerous. The Army List contains the names of 700 generals, nearly 1,000 full colonels, about 1,000 lieutenant-colonels, and 1,100 majors, in addition to three or four thousand similar dignitaries in the Indian army. Even in time of war the majority of these offices are wholly superfluous, but in peace they form a most extravagantly crushing burthen of expensive sinecurists. Such facts as these go far to explain the enormous cost of the war-system.

THE CRUSHING ARMAMENTS OF EUROPE.

A letter from a Military Correspondent a few days ago described the present actual stage of a preparation without parallel in the world. The preparation is for the largest and quickest possible destruction of the human species, and never before was it so advanced, so complete, so scientific, and so ready for immediate use. Numbers have not now the value in military questions they once had, but they still count for something, and five continental nations have five and a half millions of men either ready to march to-morrow, or to follow at short intervals. These are the most warlike races, and all have their special qualities for the work. Of one race we are told that they are born soldiers, and never so much at home as on the battle-field ; of another, that they will endure everything, and go wherever they are commanded ; of another, that a national appeal will unite them all as one man, differ as they may in their habits of warfare ; of another, that they only want organization and leaders ; of another, that they are only too vivacious and difficult to restrain.

These are the forces of the first-class continental powers — only the more active elements that are included in the survey ; the outsiders are left outside. The loose extremities of the great European organization are left hanging or lying about. They would have their place and work in an actual fray, but for the present they need not be noticed. This is a question of vitality, design, and will. There are five million and a half men of action, each resolved to sell his life dear, and to help turn the balance considerably one way or the other, that is, if he is to be called into action at all ; and each is fully aware that he may be. A large proportion of these men are under regular and constant training on one system of tactics or another — old-fashioned, new lights, experimental, or improved by very recent experience. The Prussians have learnt much, and even the Austrians something, in Denmark and Bohemia. Then even the latter had hardly anything to learn in their artil-